



DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Wildlife Resources Section
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Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

Robert A. Fala
Director

February 22, 2016


TO: Hunters, Anglers, Trappers, Landowners, Farm Groups and Others Interested
in Making Recommendations for Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Regulations.

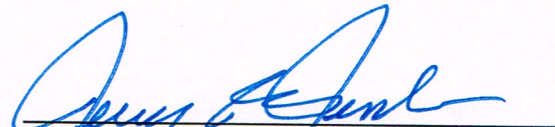
Meetings to solicit your comments concerning the 2016-2017 big game hunting regulations; 2017-2018 hunting and trapping regulations; 2017 fishing regulations; and reptile and amphibian regulations are scheduled for March 14 and 15, 2016.

The Division of Natural Resources is recommending most season dates, bag limits and creel limits similar to the 2015-2016 seasons (see recommended changes attached).

In order for us to obtain your recommendations and accurately record them, it is necessary for you to complete and return the attached form prior to April 8, 2016, to the Division of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Section, P.O. Box 67, Elkins, West Virginia, 26241, Attn: Gary Foster.

Your continued interest in the state's natural resources programs is appreciated.


Paul R. Johansen, Chief
Wildlife Resources Section


Jerry B. Jenkins, Colonel
Law Enforcement Section

Please feel free to comment or provide recommendations on hunting, fishing, amphibian and reptile regulations or on any phase of our wildlife and law enforcement programs. Please use space provided on the following page.
Returning the attached tables is not necessary.

Please complete the following section. Be sure only one form is submitted per individual or organization. Unsigned questionnaires will not be counted.

PLEASE PRINT

Individual, Group, or Organization Name_____

Mailing Address_____

City, State, Zip_____

Number of Members_____Telephone_____

Signed_____Date_____County_____

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMMENTS AND THE QUESTIONNAIRE
BY APRIL 8, 2016**

Return To:

Gary Foster
WV Division of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Section
P.O. Box 67
Elkins, WV 26241

HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS COMMENTS:

FISHING, AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE REGULATIONS COMMENTS:

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE
2016-2017 HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS**

1. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that the 2016 antlerless deer season be open as shown on the attached tables.

Favor _____ Oppose _____

2. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that the 2016 black bear season be open as shown on the attached table.

Favor _____ Oppose _____

3. The Division of Natural Resources proposes a modification to the fall turkey season strategy, which is to initiate a 1-week fall turkey season in select counties which have a spring gobbler harvest of less than 0.75 birds/sq. mi. (Note: currently those counties with a spring gobbler harvest of less than 0.50 birds/sq. mi. are closed to fall turkey hunting). This regulation would not apply to the traditional 2-week or 4-week fall counties.

Favor _____ Oppose _____

4. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that all other big game hunting regulations for the 2016-2017 hunting seasons be open as shown on the attached table.

Favor _____ Oppose _____

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE
2017-2018 HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS**

1. The Division of Natural Resources proposes that all other hunting and trapping regulations for the 2017-2018 seasons be open as shown on the attached table.

Favor _____ Oppose _____

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2017 FISHING REGULATIONS

1. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to establish a four fish per day creel limit only one of which may be 35 inches or longer in total length and a possession limit of eight for Flathead Catfish on the Ohio River, applying to all West Virginia waters included in the Ohio River Reciprocal Agreement.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

2. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to establish a four fish per day creel limit only one of which may be 35 inches or longer in total length and a possession limit of eight for Flathead Catfish on the Kanawha River extending from the mouth upstream to the confluence of the New and Gauley rivers.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

3. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to establish a catch-and-release regulation for Trout on an approximately 0.20-mile section of Seneca Creek from the mouth of Seneca Creek extending upstream to the Rt. 28 bridge in Pendleton County.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

4. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to establish a catch-and-release regulation for Brook Trout on Mill Creek and all tributaries of Mill Creek within Kumbrabow State Forest in Randolph County.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

5. The Division of Natural Resources proposes to establish a Children and Class Q fishing area on an approximately 300-yard section of Clear Fork at Gilliland Park in Oceana, Wyoming County.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

6. All other fishing regulations for 2017 would be same as those in 2016.

Favor _____

Oppose _____

PROPOSED 2016 ANTLERLESS DEER SEASON HUNTING REGULATIONS (PRIVATE LAND)

Counties or Parts Thereof Closed to Antlerless (Class N/NN) Hunting	Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Limited Licenses for Resident and Non-resident (Must Apply)	Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Unlimited Resident Class N and Nonresident Class NN	Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Unlimited Resident Class N and Nonresident Class NN	Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Unlimited Resident Class N and Nonresident Class NN. (*see special regulation requirement below)
	(Season Bag Limit: 1)	(Season Bag Limit: 1)	(Season Bag Limit: 3)	(Season Bag Limit: 3)
	Oct. 20-22; Nov. 21-Dec. 3; Dec. 15-17; Dec. 28-31	Oct. 20-22; Nov. 21-Dec. 3; Dec. 15-17; Dec. 28-31	Oct. 20-22; Nov. 21-Dec. 3; Dec. 15-17; Dec. 28-31	Oct. 20-22; Nov. 21-Dec. 3; Dec. 15-17; Dec. 28-31
<p>Fayette (<i>west portion - Rt.19 to New River to Gauley River</i>)</p> <p>Kanawha (<i>south portion - S. of Elk River and E. of Corridor G</i>)</p> <p>Raleigh (<i>west portion - Rt. 99 to Rt. 3, south on Rt. 3 to I-77/64 then I-77/64W to county line</i>)</p> <p>Wayne (<i>south portion - Rt. 21 to Rt. 25, to Rt. 37, to Rt. 30 to Rt. 152 to Rt. 36</i>)</p>	<p>Boone (400)</p> <p>Clay (350)</p> <p>Fayette (<i>east portion - Rt.19 to New River to Gauley River</i>) (300)</p> <p>Greenbrier (<i>north portion - N. of Rt. 60, N. of I-64, N. & W. of Rt. 9, W. of Rt. 219 at Renick, N. of Rt. 11, E. of Greenbrier R., N. of I-64, E of Rt. 60/14</i>) (250)</p> <p>Mineral (<i>west portion- Starting at the WV/MD Line follow US Rt. 220 to SR 972, to US Rt 50, to SR 93 to County Line</i>) (200)</p> <p>Pendleton (<i>west portion - Straight Fk. to N. Fork of the S. Branch of the Potomac River</i>) (200)</p> <p>Nicholas (350)</p> <p>Pocahontas (300)</p> <p>Raleigh (<i>east portion - Rt. 99 to Rt. 3, south on Rt. 3 to I-77/64 then I-77/64W to county line</i>) (250)</p> <p>Tucker (500)</p> <p>Wayne (<i>north portion - Rt. 21 to Rt. 25, to Rt. 37, to Rt. 30 to Rt. 152 to Rt. 36</i>) (250)</p> <p>Webster (300)</p>	<p>Barbour</p> <p>Braxton</p> <p>Cabell</p> <p>Grant</p> <p>Hancock</p> <p>Kanawha (<i>north portion - N. of Elk River and W. of Corridor G</i>)</p> <p>Lincoln</p> <p>Marshall</p> <p>Mercer</p> <p>Ohio</p> <p>Randolph</p> <p>Tyler</p>	<p>Berkeley</p> <p>Brooke</p> <p>Harrison</p> <p>Jackson</p> <p>Jefferson</p> <p>Marion</p> <p>Mason</p> <p>Monongalia</p> <p>Monroe</p> <p>Pendleton (<i>east portion - Straight Fork. to N. Fork of the S. Branch of the Potomac River</i>)</p> <p>Pleasants</p> <p>Preston</p> <p>Putnam</p> <p>Roane</p> <p>Summers</p> <p>Taylor</p>	<p>Calhoun</p> <p>Doddridge</p> <p>Gilmer</p> <p>Greenbrier (<i>south portion - S. of Rt. 60, S of I-64, S & E of Rt. 9, E of Rt. 219 at Renick, S of Rt. 11, W of Greenbrier R., S of I-64, W of Rt. 60/14</i>)</p> <p>Hampshire</p> <p>Hardy</p> <p>Lewis</p> <p>Mineral (<i>east portion - Starting at the WV/MD Line follow US Rt. 220 to SR 972, to US Rt 50, to SR 93 to County Line</i>)</p> <p>Morgan</p> <p>Ritchie</p> <p>Upshur</p> <p>Wetzel</p> <p>Wirt</p> <p>Wood</p>

*In these counties, archery hunters are required to take an antlerless deer during the archery deer season prior to harvesting a second antlered deer during the archery deer season. In addition, buck firearms hunters are required to take an antlerless deer during the antlerless deer season prior to harvesting a second antlered deer during the buck firearms season.

PROPOSED 2016 ANTLERLESS DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS FOR PUBLIC LANDS

Season Dates: Nov. 21 - Dec. 3, 2016; Dec. 15 - 17, 2016; and Dec. 28 - 31, 2016

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS OPEN TO LIMITED LICENSES FOR RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT CLASS N/NN ANTLERLESS SEASON – BAG LIMIT OF 1

Blackwater WMA (100) (Preston/Tucker Cos.)	Greenbrier SF (50) (Greenbrier Co.)	Seneca SF (50) (Pocahontas Co.)
Calvin Price SF (50) (Pocahontas Co.)	Kumbrabow SF (50) (Randolph Co.)	Wallback WMA (100) (Roane/Clay/Kanawha Cos.)
Elk River WMA (100) (Braxton Co.)	Little Canaan WMA (50) (Tucker Co.)	

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS OPEN TO UNLIMITED LICENSES FOR RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT CLASS N/NN ANTLERLESS SEASON – BAG LIMIT OF 1

Amherst/Plymouth WMA (Putnam Co.)	Chief Cornstalk WMA (Mason Co.)	Lewis Wetzel WMA (Wetzel/Tyler Cos.)	Pruntytown WMA (Taylor Co.)
Beury Mountain WMA (Fayette Co.)	Coopers Rock SF (Monongalia/Preston Cos.)	McClintic WMA (Mason Co.)	Snake Hill WMA (Monongalia/Preston Cos.)
Bluestone WMA (Summers/Mercer/Monroe Cos.)	Cross Creek WMA (Brooke Co.)	Morris Creek WMA (Kanawha/Clay Cos.)	Underwood WMA (Marshall/Wetzel Cos.)
Castlemans Run WMA (Brooke/Ohio Cos.)	Green Bottom WMA (Cabell/Mason Cos.)	Pleasant Creek WMA (Barbour/Taylor Cos.)	

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS OPEN TO UNLIMITED LICENSES FOR RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT CLASS N/NN ANTLERLESS SEASON – BAG LIMIT OF 3

Sleepy Creek WMA (Berkeley/Morgan Cos.)	Stonecoal Lake WMA (Lewis/Upshur Cos.)	Stonewall Jackson Lake WMA (Lewis Co.)
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WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS CLOSED TO ANTLERLESS SEASON

Beaver Dam WMA (Randolph Co.)	Little River WMA (Pocahontas Co.)	Rimel WMA (Pocahontas Co.)
Cheat WMA (Randolph Co.)	Neola WMA (Greenbrier/Pocahontas Cos.)	Tea Creek WMA (Pocahontas/Randolph/Webster Cos.)
Cranberry WMA (Nicholas/Webster/Pocahontas/ Greenbrier Cos.)	Otter Creek WMA (Randolph/Tucker Cos.)	
Handley WMA (Pocahontas Co.)	Potts Creek WMA (Monroe Co.)	

All other WMAs and public lands will have the same regulations as private land in the respective county or portion of county where the WMAs or other public lands are located.

Proposed 2016 Black Bear Seasons

Statewide bag limit two, provided at least one bear comes from Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Raleigh or Wyoming counties

Archery & Crossbow Seasons – 51 counties (Split Season): Sept. 24 – Nov. 19 and Dec. 5 – Dec. 31, 2016; Logan, McDowell, Mingo and

Wyoming: Sept. 24 – Dec. 31, 2016

Gun Seasons: Refer to Table Below

7-Day Gun With or Without Dogs Oct. 1 - Oct. 7 12-Day Gun Without Dogs Nov. 21 - Dec. 3 4-Week Gun With or Without Dogs Dec. 5 - Dec. 31	8-Day Gun With or Without Dogs Sept. 3 - Sept. 10 4-Week Gun With or Without Dogs Dec. 5 - Dec. 31	7-Day Gun With or Without Dogs Sept. 17 – Sept. 23 4-Week Gun With or Without Dogs Dec. 5 - Dec. 31	6-Week Gun Without Dogs Nov. 21 - Dec. 3, Dec. 5 - Dec. 31	2-Week Gun Without Dogs Nov. 21 - Dec. 3 By Permit Only Entire County Open	2-Week Gun Without Dogs Nov. 21 – Dec. 3 No Permit Needed Entire County Open	4-Week Gun Without Dogs Dec. 5 - Dec. 31
Boone Fayette Kanawha Raleigh	Logan McDowell Mingo Wyoming	Barbour (E. of Rt. 92) Braxton (E. of I-79) Clay (S. of Elk River) Grant Greenbrier Hardy Monroe (E. of Rt. 219) Nicholas Pendleton Pocahontas Preston Randolph Tucker Upshur (E. of Rt. 20) Webster	Berkeley Hampshire Jefferson Lewis Mercer Monongalia Morgan Summers Taylor	Barbour Braxton Calhoun Clay Gilmer Grant Greenbrier Hardy Harrison Lincoln Pendleton Pocahontas Randolph Tucker Upshur Webster Wirt	Nicholas Preston Monroe	Barbour (W. of Rt. 92) Braxton (W. of I-79) Brooke Cabell Calhoun Clay (N. of Elk River) Doddridge Gilmer Hancock Harrison Jackson Lincoln Marion Marshall Mason Mineral (E. of New Creek) Monroe (W. of Rt. 219) Ohio Pleasants Putnam Ritchie Roane Tyler Upshur (W. of Rt. 20) Wayne Wetzel Wirt Wood
4-Week Gun With or Without Dogs Dec. 5 – Dec. 31 Mineral (W. of New Creek)						

Proposed Opening and Closing Dates for the 2016-2017 Big Game Hunting Seasons

Species	Opening & Closing Dates	Comments/Changes
Bear (Archery & Crossbow)	*Sept. 24, 2016 - Nov. 19, 2016 Dec. 5, 2016 - Dec. 31, 2016	*with exception that Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties will be open from September 24 – December 31, 2016
Bear (Gun) {Selected Counties} {Selected Counties} {Selected Counties} {Selected Counties}	Sept. 3, 2016 - Sept. 10, 2016 Sept. 17, 2016 - Sept. 23, 2016 Oct. 1, 2016 - Oct. 7, 2016 Nov. 21, 2016 - Dec. 3, 2016 Dec. 5, 2016 - Dec. 31, 2016	See Bear Table
Boar (Gun)	Oct. 22, 2016 - Oct. 29, 2016	
Boar (Archery & Crossbow)	Sept. 24, 2016 - Dec. 31, 2016	
Deer (Archery & Crossbow - Special Urban)	Sept. 3, 2016 - Dec. 31, 2016	
Deer (Archery & Crossbow)	Sept. 24, 2016 - Dec. 31, 2016	
Deer (Bucks Only)	Nov. 21, 2016 - Dec. 3, 2016	
Deer (Antlerless) {Selected Counties}	Oct. 20, 2016 - Oct. 22, 2016 Nov. 21, 2016 - Dec. 3, 2016 Dec. 15, 2016 - Dec. 17, 2016 Dec. 28, 2016 - Dec. 31, 2016	See Attached Deer Tables for Selected Counties
Deer (Youth/Q/XS Season - Antlerless)	Oct. 15, 2016 Dec. 26, 2016 - Dec. 27, 2016	
Deer (Muzzleloader)	Dec. 5, 2016 - Dec. 10, 2016	
Turkey (Fall) - (4-week counties)	Oct. 8, 2016 - Oct. 15, 2016 Oct. 24, 2016 - Nov. 12, 2016	
Turkey (Fall) - (2-week counties)	Oct. 8, 2016 - Oct. 15, 2016 Oct. 24, 2016 - Oct. 29, 2016	Fall counties determined after 2016 spring gobbler season
Turkey (Fall) - (1-week counties)	Oct. 8, 2016 - Oct. 15, 2016	Fall counties determined after 2016 spring gobbler season
Turkey (Spring Youth Season)	April 15, 2017	
Turkey (Spring 2017)	April 17, 2017 - May 13, 2017	

**Proposed Opening and Closing Dates for the 2017-2018
Hunting and Trapping Seasons**

Species	Opening & Closing Dates	Comments/Changes
Squirrel	Sept. 9, 2017 - Feb. 28, 2018	
Squirrel (Youth)	Sept. 2, 2017	
Raccoon (Hunting)	Oct. 14, 2017 - Feb. 28, 2018	
Raccoon (Trapping)	Nov. 4, 2017 - Feb. 28, 2018	
Ruffed Grouse	Oct. 14, 2017 - Feb. 28, 2018	
Quail	Nov. 4, 2017 - Jan. 6, 2018	
Rabbit	Nov. 4, 2017 - Feb. 28, 2018	
Snowshoe Hare	Nov. 4, 2017 - Feb. 28, 2018	
Ring-necked Pheasant (Statewide) (Hillcrest WMA)	Nov. 4, 2017 - Jan. 6, 2018 Nov. 11, 2017 - Dec. 2, 2017	
Fox (Hunting & Trapping) (Hunting at night with artificial light)	Nov. 4, 2017 - Feb. 28, 2018 Jan. 1, 2018 - Feb. 28, 2018	
Bobcat (Hunting & Trapping)	Nov. 4, 2017 - Feb. 28, 2018	
Mink/Muskrat (Trapping)	Nov. 4, 2017 - Feb. 28, 2018	
Fisher (Trapping)	Nov. 4, 2017 - Jan. 31, 2018	
Beaver (Trapping)	Nov. 4, 2017 - Mar. 31, 2018	
Otter (Trapping)	Nov. 4, 2017 - Feb. 28, 2018	
Crow (Hunting)	Oct. 1, 2017 - Nov. 18, 2017 Jan. 1, 2018 - Mar. 3, 2018	
Skunk/Opossum/Coyote/Weasel/ Woodchuck/English Sparrow/European Starling/Pigeon (Hunting)	Continuous Open Season	
Coyote (Hunting at night with artificial light)	Jan. 1, 2018 - July 31, 2018	
Skunk/Opossum/Coyote/Weasel (Trapping)	Nov. 4, 2017 - Feb. 28, 2018	
Elk, Song & Insectivorous Birds, Hawks, Owls, Falcons & Eagles	No Open Season	